

Dane County Historical Society Board of Directors: January 19, 2026

Present: John Decker, Mike Flaherty, Barbara Furstenberg, Paul Hessman, Jane Licht, Gini Nichols, Peter Williams. Rick Bernstein, Executive Director. Excused: Nino Amato, Joanne Jensen

John Decker called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

Minutes. **Jane Licht moved and Mike Flaherty seconded, approval the the Nov. minutes.which passed.**

President's Report.

- John proposed that the police panel event that Nino Amato is planning be held as a public event in March. He suggested that the annual meeting in June could be a progressive event commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence. It would start at the burial site of Nathaniel Ames, the last surviving soldier of the revolutionary war, in Prairie Mound Cemetery outside Oregon. It would move to Rome Corners in the Town of Oregon, the site where a Liberty Pole was raised at the start of the Civil War in 1861. The final stop would be the United Brethren Church in Oregon, where the formal meeting will take place. This is a proposed marker site.
- There was discussion of three proposals: the progressive commemoration of the US 250th anniversary; a panel discussion with retired police officers regarding the evolution of the Madison police department; a program about the renovation of Quivey's Grove restaurant. **It was agreed that all three are of interest, with the police panel as the priority.**
- There was discussion of the location for the tablets. Rick Bernstein has made contacts with the Dane County Executive, Alliant Energy Center, and others. He is waiting for feedback. **Board members were urged to contact their Supervisors.**

Financial Report.

- Paul Hessman provided a summary of the Baird and Summit Credit Union accounts. As of January 18,, the Baird account holds \$93,335.62, with \$5,646.99 in the cash account. The balance in the Summit Credit Union checking account on January 18 was \$3,401.53.
- The Summit account includes a payment of \$2,500 from the Dane County Library Service for the Unjust Deeds exhibition.

Archives Report. Barbara Furstenberg described the latest item catalogued, a 1906 Capitol City Cookbook. This is a nice addition to our collection of church and community cookbooks.

Budget.

- Rick reviewed the 2025 actual versus budgeted figures, Expenditures were approximately \$4,000 less than budgeted. Revenues were approximately \$2,000 over projections.

- Rick explained his proposed 2026 budget.
- Barbara pointed out that it has become impossible to print archives documents on the current printer. **Peter Williams moved to purchase a new printer. Barbara seconded the motion, which passed.**
- **Jane moved to approve the proposed 2026 budget with an amendment to purchase a new printer. Gini Nichols seconded the motion, which passed.**

Old Business. Peter asked whether there has been any follow-up with Dane County regarding a possible new location. Jane has discussed this issue with Patrick Miles, Dane County County Board chair. There is potential for space in the renovated county building.

**Rick reminded the board that membership renewals for 2026 are now due.**

The next meeting will take place on February 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.